COVERUPS!

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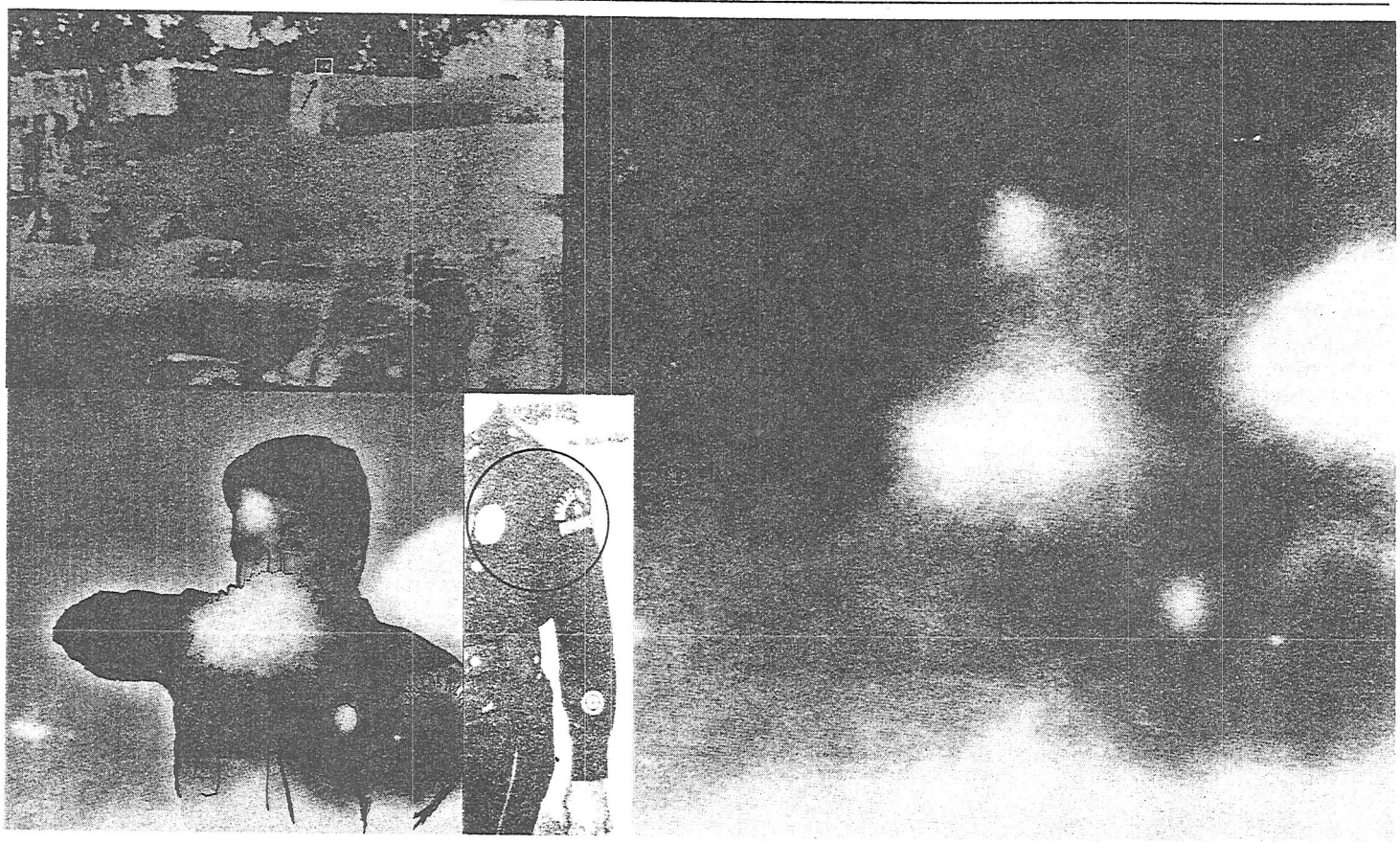


At upper left is the Moorman Polaroid picture taken at the exact moment of the shot which exploded the president's head. The small square indicates the area of the large picture at right which shows an apparent gunman seemingly dressed in a uniform similar to those worn by Dallas police officers. Compare the badge and shoulder-patch insignia at center to similar shapes in the Moorman enlargement, which are in exactly the right size and relationships to match. For those readers who may have a hard time visualizing the "gunman", we have drawn a sketch, lower left, of what he might look like if this photo is computer-enhanced. Such enhancement could reveal the identity of Kennedy's killer and determine whether he was disguised as a police officer; or it could show this is merely a peculiar illusion, even though Betzner and Willis 5 show a man in this location. *Photos, photoanalysis, art and caption by Jack White.*

GUNMAN REVEALED BEHIND GRASSY KNOLL CONCRETE WALL?

copyright 1982

by Gary Mack

Originally from a fine-grain negative of the Mary Moorman photo, the extreme enlargement above seems to show a gunman, possibly dressed as a police officer, firing at President Kennedy. This convincing image, which is immediately behind the concrete wall on the grassy knoll (sometimes erroneously called "the retaining wall"), was photographically enhanced by graphics expert Jack White; clearly visible is most of the man's hair and face, including the forehead, eyebrows, eyes, nose, left cheek and ear, left arm and upper left chest. The man's right jaw and mouth are obscured by what could be a muzzle flash with a small amount of smoke.

Two other images are consistent with the uniform of a police officer; on the left chest is what could be a badge, and on the left shoulder is what seems to be an insignia. These shapes match the known configuration of Dallas Police uniforms, although that does not necessarily mean the man is a Dallas policeman.

The Moorman photo, which corresponds to the instant of the fatal head shot, was never examined or published by the Warren Commission, even though it appeared on television and in newspapers and magazines for months beginning the day after the assassination. The recent House Select Committee on Assassinations did study the original Polaroid photo, but, because it "was of quite poor quality," found nothing in the area of the wall (4HSCA411). Nevertheless, in the Photo Panel's final report, the HSCA states "Although it is extremely unlikely that further enhancement of any kind would be successful, this particular photograph should be re-examined, in light of the findings of the acoustics analysis"(6HSCA126).

HSCA photo consultants Robert Groden and Dick Sprague told the panel that high quality negatives were made within hours of the assassination, negatives which are now far clearer than the badly faded original. Unbelievable as it may seem, there is no

indication the HSCA even attempted to find them. If it had, the gunman image would have been even sharper than Jack White's blowups, since the original negatives are at least four generations better, thus far more detailed.

Most of those negatives are owned by AP and UPI (Mary sold the rights for $600), but a different negative was used to make a print for a JFK researcher back in the mid-sixties. He attempted, unsuccessfully, to have the picture enhanced by scientists. Several years later he loaned the print to Groden, who has since returned it.

Robert recently made blowups showing the top of the wall, but he overlooked this image. Along with some Zapruder frames for a forthcoming article, Robert sent *Coverups!* a slide of one of the knoll-wall enlargements. I saw the man almost immediately and showed it to Jack. He saw it too and spent many hours working on an extreme blowup with the best ratio of contrast and brightness to clarify the image (some detail has, of course, been lost in the printing process). What you see here is not nearly as well-defined as the 8x10 glossies Jack made from Groden's slide.

The HSCA analysis of Phil Willis' fifth slide, taken 6 seconds before Moorman, is that a man in dark clothes was standing behind the wall as the President approached (6HSCA122). He seems to have a "linear object" in his hands that is consistent with the size and shape of a rifle, but because the picture is too blurred in that area, the photo panel reached no conclusion (6HSCA125).

Prior to the July 1978 completion of the Photo Panel's report, HSCA members and staff referred to the image in Willis 5 as "the Black Dog Man," since it looked like a dog sitting on top of the wall. That euphemism perhaps accurately stated the seriousness with which the HSCA treated this very important question. Even a quick glance at the Warren Commission testimony of Jean Hill, who stood right next to Mary Moorman, shows that at least one witness thought the Black Dog Man fired one or more shots. Jean was convinced enough to chase him back into the railroad yards, where he disappeared.

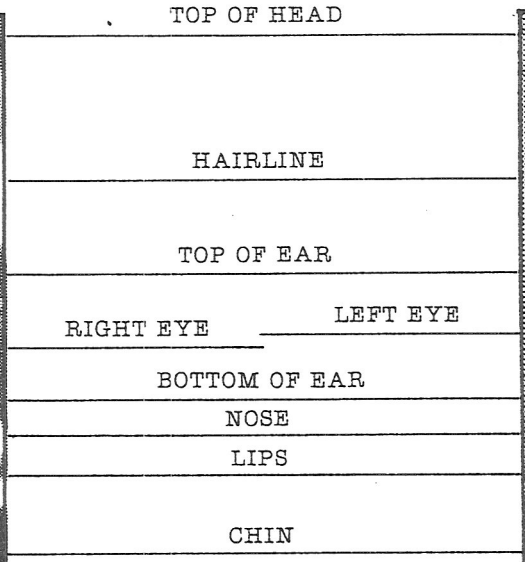
If this really is a picture of another gunman, there's a potential conflict with the acoustics evidence. The Dallas Police recording showed the knoll shot originated behind the picket fence about 8 feet west of the corner (8HSCA29); however, the end of the wall is about 20 feet east and a few feet farther south, so if a shot were fired, it, too, should have been recorded.

Of course a silencer could have been used, but the supersonic bullet would have created a shock wave that the open mic should have picked up. The more likely explanation is that the sound of this shot was softer than the others and was buried under extraneous noise.

Certainly someone should subject the print or high-quality negatives to computer enhancement. Then we'd know for sure who, or what, was behind the concrete wall. Is this really another gunman and is he using the perfect disguise?

"She didn't believe me about the agents in the trees—Funny, even after Watergate and all that crap, people just refuse to accept the truth. This is the most corrupt Gov't in history."—Charles Harrelson's calendar book, dated August 30, 1980.

The Tall Tramp
Under Arrest, 1963
Dealey Plaza



Charles Harrelson . . . key suspect in 1979 slaying of federal judge.

FWST 10-27-82

CIA informer is found dead

No signs of foul play reported

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Kevin Mulcahy, the former CIA analyst who blew the whistle on Edwin Wilson and other former CIA agents for allegedly aiding Libyan terrorists, was found dead Tuesday outside a rural motel cabin in Virginia.

A deputy in the sheriff's office in Shenandoah County, Va., said there were no signs of foul play and he said that Mulcahy may have died of exposure.

Mulcahy was the second potential witness in the government's case against Wilson and co-defendant Frank E. Terpil to die. Earlier this year, Rafael Villaverde, a Cuban who allegedly met with Wilson in Geneva to discuss a purported assassination plot, was killed in a boat explosion near Miami. Bahamian authorities ruled that there was no foul play involved.

The government is known to have a series of other witnesses for its cases against Wilson.

Mulcahy's body was found at 8:05 a.m. outside a cabin of the Mountain View Court Motel on U.S. Highway 11 near the community of Bowman's Crossing, Deputy Sheriff Gary Dalton said. Bowman's Crossing is between the towns of Edinburg and Woodstock about 90 miles west of Washington.

Dalton said Mulcahy, who was reported by one motel resident to have been drinking heavily, apparently had tried unsuccessfully to get into the cabin and may have died of exposure. Overnight temperatures were said to have been in the low 40s.

Dalton said the storm door to the cabin was open, but the main door was still closed. Mulcahy, who was wearing a wool suit, was found seated with his back to the door and his trousers around his ankles, the deputy said.

Dalton said there were no signs of wounds or foul play.

The deputy said Mulcahy had checked into the motel on Oct. 20, but was ordered to leave Monday because he had been drinking heavily and because glass in his door had been shot out with a shotgun. Dalton said he believed Mulcahy did the shooting.

Motel owner David Stalker removed Mulcahy's possessions from the room on Monday, Dalton said.

Dalton said Mulcahy's body was found by another motel resident, Della Morris, as she was taking her son to a school bus Tuesday morning. The deputy said Mulcahy apparently had been dead for hours.

Mulcahy was last seen alive on Monday as he left in his pickup truck, Dalton said. Mrs. Morris described Mulcahy as "real staggery" and said he slumped several times against the steering wheel. She said he kept calling "David," but she did not know who that was.

Dalton said the FBI has sealed off Mulcahy's room. FBI spokesman Roger Young said in Washington that steps was taken "as a precaution in the event this was in any way related to the government's investigations of Wilson and Terpil."

CIA spokesman Dale Peterson said the agency was informed of Mulcahy's death by the Shenandoah County sheriff's office. "We do not know any further details," he said.

An intelligence source in Washington said "no foul play is indicated at this point."

The office of Fairfax County Medical Examiner Dr. James Beyer in suburban Washington said Mulcahy's body was brought to Fairfax County Hospital Tuesday afternoon and would undergo an autopsy on Wednesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., chief prosecutor in one of the cases against Wilson, said in Washington that he had few details of Mulcahy's death.

"At this point there doesn't appear to be any indication of foul play," he said. Barcella said he did not know whether a note was found at the motel.

Mulcahy, 39, was the son of a career CIA official and joined the agency himself in 1963 as an expert in high-speed communications and computers. He resigned in 1968 to enter a private electronics business.

Having overcome his alcoholism in 1976, Mulcahy was offered a $50,000-a-year job in an export business run by Wilson and Terpil.

Mulcahy allegedly discovered their dealings with the radical Libyan government but initially believed they were working for the CIA. He has said his first indication that they were not came in September of 1976 when a top-level CIA secret operator, Theodore Shackley, gave him a noncommittal answer to direct questions about those possible links.

Subsequently, Mulcahy took his suspicions to federal law enforcement authorities.

Wilson and Terpil were indicted in April 1980 on charges of supplying explosives to Libya for use in a terrorist training school and conspiring unsuccessfully to murder a Libyan dissident, but both men eluded capture by the Justice Department.

Finally in the summer of 1981, angry and frustrated with the pace of the government's efforts, Mulcahy told his story to Seymour M. Hersh of *The New York Times*.

Informer's death appears natural

Associated Press FWST 10-28-82

WASHINGTON — Investigators leaned Thursday toward the view that Kevin Mulcahy died of natural causes, although an associate reported the ex-CIA analyst, who blew the whistle on former CIA men allegedly aiding Libya, feared he was being followed in his final weeks.

Maj. Eddie Shrum of the Shenandoah County, Va., sheriff's office said investigators have interviewed the residents in and around the motel where Mulcahy was found dead Tuesday, but they had yet to find anyone who saw him in the hours before his death.

Later Thursday, county prosecutor William H. Logan Jr. said the leading theory for the cause of Mulcahy's death was exposure complicated by serious lung ailments. A blood test showed he was just over the legal intoxication limit.

Fort Collins, Colo., police Sgt. Ray Martinez said Mulcahy telephoned him a week and a half before he died, claiming that "somebody was following him, that somebody had been in the different motel rooms he had stayed in."

Martinez, who described Mulcahy as "sometimes overly paranoid," said the one-time CIA analyst moved around constantly, always called from pay telephones and never said where he was. Martinez said Mulcahy often said he thought Wilson would try to have him killed.

Martinez met Mulcahy while supervising the investigation of an attempted murder of a Libyan dissident student in Colorado.

"He was very helpful to me in checking out possible connections between Wilson and that case," Martinez said. He also said that Mulcahy claimed to have remained in constant touch with Wilson's co-defendant, Frank E. Terpil. Terpil has not been apprehended; the government has said he was last spotted in Beirut and Damascus.

Describing Mulcahy's fears, Martinez noted that when "we'd be driving down a street ... he'd make U-turns to be sure no one was following him and he was always worried that someone was going to bomb him or poison him. He used to always try to check his food for poison."

Despite numerous interviews with residents at and near the motel, Shrum said, county police have not been able to answer the remaining questions about Mulcahy's final days, including:

- Why did Mulcahy fire a shotgun inside his cabin Sunday morning?
- What happened to Mulcahy between the time he was seen about 8 p.m. Monday and when his body was found 12 hours later?

Logan said authorities were still checking on the identities of two middle-aged women who visited the cabin for about 20 minutes on Oct. 21. But he said investigators now believe the pair were not visiting Mulcahy, but simply inspecting the cabin with an eye toward renting one of the cottages at the motel.

FBI spokesman Roger Young said bureau agents also were interviewing witnesses in an effort to learn the identity of the women and trace Mulcahy's movements in his last days.

"We're looking at everything pertinent to whether he was killed and, if so, whether it was related to his previous testimony to Congress and his impending testimony at the trial," Young said. "So far, we have nothing to point to that."

FWST 10-28-82

2 women are sought in probe on Mulcahy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal and state investigators are trying to find two unidentified women as they attempt to trace the movements of former CIA analyst Kevin Mulcahy in the final days before his death.

The 40-year-old Mulcahy, whose charges triggered the federal prosecution of ex-CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson for aiding Libyan terrorists, was suffering from bronchitis, bronchial pneumonia and advanced emphysema, according to an autopsy Wednesday. Mulcahy was found dead Tuesday morning outside a rural Virginia motel.

But Fairfax County, Va., Medical Examiner James C. Beyer postponed assigning a cause of death pending the outcome of toxicology tests, including some for poisons, requested by federal officials.

Assistant U.S. Attorney E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., who is prosecuting Wilson here, said the tests were requested because "we thought we might as well dot every i and cross every t."

The FBI said it had opened an investigation on whether Mulcahy was killed in an attempt to obstruct justice since he was a potential government witness against Wilson.

Shenandoah County Commonwealth's Attorney William H. Logan Jr. said investigators were trying to determine Mulcahy's movements the night of his death and locate two women who visited him at the motel last week.

Logan said investigators theorize Mulcahy took shelter somewhere after the last known sighting of him Monday evening, because his clothing and papers in his pockets were dry despite a rainstorm that lasted until nearly midnight Monday.

Logan said he had no solid leads to the identity of two women, believed to be in their 50s, who were seen arriving in a tan sedan for a 20-minute visit with Mulcahy several days after he checked into the motel on Oct. 20.

Logan also was still trying to determine why Mulcahy apparently fired a shotgun inside the cabin Sunday morning.

Beyer said he found no visible wounds.

Reports about Mulcahy's last few days produced new questions.

Logan, Shenandoah County deputy sheriff Gary Dalton and David Stalker, owner of the Mountain View Motel Court, laid out the following chronology:

Mulcahy checked into a one-room cabin on Oct. 20, paying $200 for one month's rent. About two days later, the women visited him.

On Sunday morning, Mulcahy apparently fired a shotgun blast that damaged the door and two windows.

On Monday, Stalker noticed broken glass and demanded Mulcahy either hand over the shotgun or check out. Mulcahy agreed to check out and left a forwarding address for a rent refund. Mulcahy said he recently had been diagnosed as having cancer and wanted to get a second opinion in Charlottesville, Va.

At about 3 p.m. Monday, Stalker helped Mulcahy carry his heavier possessions to his pickup, after which Mulcahy returned to his cabin to rest.

At 5:30 p.m. Monday, Mulcahy left the cabin and turned over the keys to Stalker, who locked the cabin and left for home.

Mulcahy then sat in the pickup, occasionally slumping against the steering wheel until after dark.

At 8:05 a.m. Tuesday, Mulcahy's body was found slumped against the cabin door, his trousers around his ankles and his hiking boots covered with clay.

Logan said the keys to Mulcahy's truck were found on the bed inside the locked cabin.

Dalton said he found 12 wine bottles — 11 of them empty — inside the cabin. Logan said another wine bottle was found in Mulcahy's pocket.

Saturday, July 3, 1982, DALLAS TIMES HERALD

Lee Oswald's daughters sue tabloid paper

By WINSTON CAVIN
Staff Writer

ROCKWALL — The daughters of Lee Harvey Oswald sued the National Enquirer Friday over an article they say portrayed them as social outcasts who have been vilified by their neighbors and shunned by their communities since childhood.

The libel suit, filed in state district court in Rockwall, says a June 22 article in the grocery-store tabloid was full of malicious lies about the daughters of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

The Enquirer's Washington attorney, Irving Younger, said the newspaper stands by its story.

"So far as the Enquirer can tell, that story is true in every detail," Younger said.

June and Rachel Porter asked the court for an unspecified amount of damages to compensate for the "shame, embarrassment, humiliation and mental pain and anguish" they suffered as a result of the article.

Dallas attorney Frank Jackson, representing the Porters, said he will make a specific request for damages — "in the millions" — when he finishes investigating "the extent of the damages" done by the article.

"We've chosen this as our battleground on behalf of the Porters," Jackson said. "We want to make sure this ends any libelous activity against the Porters."

Rachel Porter, 18, lives in Rockwall, 35 miles east of Dallas, with her mother, Marina Oswald Porter, and stepfather, Kenneth Porter. She graduated from Rockwall High School this spring and will attend college in the fall, Jackson said.

Jackson said June Porter, 20, lives in Rockwall and is a journalism student at the University of Texas at Austin.

The daughters took the name of their stepfather, who married Oswald's widow in 1965.

Porter said neither he nor his wife would comment on the suit.

The suit says both women have lived all their lives in Rockwall, Collin and Dallas counties "and have enjoyed a good reputation generally."

But the newspaper story indicates otherwise, the suit says. It says the Enquirer reported the women are "shunned by the communities of their residence, vilified by their neighbors and the subjects of verbal and physical abuse and assault."

The suit says the article indicates that Rachel and June Porter are "socially maladjusted in that they do not wear fashionable clothing, do not date or otherwise participate in common and ordinary social activities."

The suit says the women "have never been beaten up by schoolmates, have never had their dogs poisoned, have never been terrorized by obscene phone calls or hate mail and have never been driven from any residence by harassment, vandalism and gossip."

Rachel Porter "was never dissuaded from becoming a hairdresser due to her father's reputation," the suit says. "Plaintiff June Porter has been a cheerleader in high school. Plaintiffs have had dates, own records, wear designer jeans and have been to dances."

The suit contends the Enquirer knew or should have known the story was false and published it without regard for whether it was false. That kind of journalism constitutes "actual malice" under Texas libel law, the suit says.

Iain Calder, president and editor of the Enquirer, said late Friday he had not heard about the suit.

"There is nothing I can say until I see it," he said.

The Enquirer, which became the nation's largest-circulation tabloid largely through publication of gossip about famous personalities, is no stranger to libel suits.

Entertainer Carol Burnett won a highly publicized libel suit against the newspaper last year after it published an article implying she was drunk.

Sybil Leek

DTH 10-29-82

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Funeral services were scheduled here today for Sybil Leek, internationally known psychic, author, lecturer and self-avowed "witch" who died after a nine-month battle with cancer. Burial will be in England.

Ms. Leek, 65, died Tuesday at a Melbourne hospital, five days after she suffered an apparent stroke.

Born in Stoke-Upon-Trent, England, Ms. Leek said her family had engaged in witchcraft since 1134.

Ms. Leek was the author of 64 books, including "Diary of a Witch" and "Book on Herbs." She also appeared on a number of television programs and was an internationally known lecturer.

(With Bert Sugar and a Jack Anderson foreward, Leek wrote The Assassination Chain linking the major killings to the Military-Industrial Complex led by Howard Hughes)

FWST 10-29-82

The undefeated C.I.A.

By VICTOR S. NAVASKY

On Oct. 4, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a lawsuit I brought against the Central Intelligence Agency. I was suing under the Freedom of Information Act to get the list of "well over 1,000 books" that according to the Church Committee report of April 1976 had been "produced, subsidized or sponsored by the CIA before the end of 1967." Why should my case be of interest? Because it illustrates how easy it is for the CIA and the courts to subvert the Freedom of Information Act, closing off the access to government documents that the law is supposed to provide.

As a writer and as a citizen I had any number of reasons for wanting to see the CIA's book list. First, because some of the books were published in this country, it was possible that the CIA, which is supposed to operate only abroad, had violated its mandate. Second, whether or not it had broken the law, *The CIA as Publisher* seemed to me a nice subject for an article. I was curious as to precisely what sort of book subsidizer the CIA was. What did their list look like? How many of their books were fiction and how many non-fiction? How about sales, reviews and subsidiary rights? Who were the best-selling authors? What line, if any, was the agency peddling? No American activity I could imagine seemed less consistent with the theory that truth eventually asserts itself in the marketplace of ideas. The public, it seemed to me, had the right to know.

So on Oct. 18, 1976, I called the agency. I explained what I wanted and why, and Angus Thuermer, assistant to the director, said he would be back in touch with me the next day. When I didn't hear from him by the day after that, I called again. This time Dennis Berendt took not only my call but the citation to the relevant passage in the Church Committee report. When he, too, misplaced my phone number, I decided to make a third call, this one to Leon Friedman, a lawyer versed in the ways of the Freedom of Information Act, which I believed, naively as it turned out, would carry the day since its purpose was to help expose government agencies that violated our laws or values.

On Nov. 10, 1976, I sent a formal letter to George Bush, then director of Central Intelligence. Under the law, he was supposed to get back to me within 10 days, but I guess he was too busy. I did not receive an answer until Dec. 2, when the CIA denied my request. I immediately appealed, and when I did not hear anything for six weeks, I wrote again. On Feb. 7, 1977, the chairman of something called the CIA Information Review Committee wrote me that my request was denied, and three weeks later we went to court.

I will resist the temptation to belabor here the exquisite procedural, technical and legalistic obstacles put up by the agency once the case went to court. Suffice it to say, we went through three judicial levels, two appeals procedures and the whole thing took six years. It cost almost $1,000 in out-of-pocket expenses (mainly for the printing of briefs), not counting the lawyer's time (he had taken the case pro bono publico). Was it worth it?

I would say yes because of what we learned in the process. For starters, I was astonished to learn that my metaphor of the CIA as publisher rather than merely subsidizer was not a metaphor after all but a fact. Although the agency whited out the titles and authors — the content of their book program — in the 85 documents that they turned over to me, they neglected to censor the form. It turns out that like other publishers, the CIA keeps regular track of book sales, with quarterly fiscal reports that list author, title, publication date and number of copies sold. But the CIA form has some additional categories: "publisher" (under whose imprint the book came out), "language" (in which the book was initially published), "arrangements" (which CIA component paid for it) and something called "project cryptogram," (which I guess is the code term for a book's code name).

I learned that whatever else The Company was up to, the CIA was no marginal publisher. In declining to provide material, the agency explained that even if it wanted to, the "request is staggering" because "files and materials relating to books subsidized or sponsored by the CIA vary in size from 2 linear feet to approximately 200 linear feet. It is estimated that there are 2,000 pages of documents in a linear foot."

I learned from a memorandum supplied to me in the course of the suit that the CIA and I were in fundamental agreement on one thing: Books matter. In 1961, when the CIA's clandestine publishing operations began, the head of the CIA's covert action staff wrote:

"Books differ from all other propaganda media, primarily because one single book can significantly change the reader's attitude and action to an extent unmatched by the impact of any other single medium. ... Some books have marked changes in history — Marx's *Kapital*, Hitler's *Mein Kampf* etc., and quite a few others brought about changes in people's thinking on key subjects."

I learned something about how the CIA thinks. Essentially it gave the court three reasons for denying my request. First, it said the information I sought was exempt from disclosure under a provision of the Freedom of Information Act that says the director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting "intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure." Even the judge who eventually granted the CIA's motion found it hard to swallow that authors, publishers and books were the sort of "intelligence sources and methods" contemplated by the act.

Second, it said that if it revealed even a single title, this would show the "blueprint" by which the book publishing operation was accomplished. The judge did not buy that either. (The Church Committee had already let it be known that *The Penkovskiy Papers*, the best-selling, partly bogus "journal" of a Western spy in the Soviet Union, published in 1965, and translations of Machiavelli's *The Prince*, and T.S. Eliot, among others, were on the CIA's backlist.)

Third, and the agency ultimately prevailed on this one, it contended that disclosure of the list would constitute official acknowledgement of the agency's involvement in foreign clandestine book publishing activities, and as such would have serious foreign relations consequences that could damage our national security.

It convinced all of the courts before which it appeared that its assertion on this matter need not be buttressed by evidence, even shown in camera. That left nothing to argue.

To date, not a single sentence has been released over the national security objections of the CIA. But more cases like mine should be brought in the hope that repeated forays into the judicial process will gradually educate the press, the public and eventually the judiciary itself on the high costs of secrecy. It is no secret that six and a half years have passed since the Church Committee documented past abuses by the CIA, and Congress has yet to pass a charter setting forth the guidelines under which the agency should operate. The question is only why the director wants the CIA exempted from a law that has yet to be seriously enforced in any practical way against his agency.

Victor S. Navasky is editor of the Nation and author of *Naming Names*. This article was written for *The New York Times* and distributed by Special Features.

FWST 5-31-82

CIA gave materials for book, editor says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The editor of a controversial Cold War espionage best seller, *The Penkovsky Papers*, now acknowledges he obtained the basic materials for the book from the CIA.

At the same time, editor Frank Gibney contends the papers ascribed to spy Oleg V. Penkovsky were fully authentic, and he denies their disclosure was part of "some behind-the-scenes CIA publishing project or plot."

Gibney's statements came in the preface to a new paperback edition of the Penkovsky book, which had provoked angry denunciations from the Kremlin — as well as skepticism among Western Soviet-watchers — when it was originally published in 1965.

Penkovsky was a colonel in the GRU, the Soviet military espionage apparatus, who served as an agent for U.S. and British intelligence during a 16-month period in 1961-62. He was arrested by the Soviet KGB security police in October 1962 and executed the next year after a Moscow trial.

At his trial, Penkovsky confessed to secretly passing to the West more than 5,000 microfilmed pages of highly classified documents on Soviet weaponry, military strategy, political intentions and espionage operations.

The Penkovsky Papers combined relatively dry, expository material with a series of personal observations harshly critical of the Soviet system and Kremlin leadership.

For example, Penkovsky was quoted as declaring that then-Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev headed "a government of adventurers. They are demagogues and liars, covering themselves with the banner of the struggle for peace.... I know that the leaders of our Soviet state are the willing provocateurs of an atomic war."

In 1976, a Senate Intelligence Committee report said *The Penkovsky Papers* was a CIA book published "for operational reasons." The committee said, "The book was prepared and written by witting agency assets who drew on actual case materials."

When the book originally came out in 1965, an introduction by Gibney made no mention of the CIA's role and said only that the Penkovsky materials had been "smuggled out of the Soviet Union . . . in highly anonymous circumstances."

But in his preface to the new Ballantine Books paperback edition, Gibney confirms that "when I first looked at the materials from which the papers were selected, they were in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency."

He explained that "some of the material was in the form of transcriptions of interview sessions that Penkovsky had had with British and American intelligence officers. I also heard some recordings of Penkovsky's voice. A large portion, however, consisted of notes either typed or handwritten by Penkovsky — much of which he had sent out on microfilm."

"The fact that these papers were in the possession of the CIA in no way invalidated their authenticity," said Gibney, a former *Life* magazine writer and *Newsweek* senior editor who is now vice chairman of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* Board of Editors.

"In no sense of the word were the papers handed to me as part of some behind-the-scenes CIA publishing project or plot," he wrote. "Quite to the contrary, it was I who got wind of their existence and managed to pry the papers out of the agency

Enquirer wants Oswald suit moved

Associated Press

DALLAS — A libel suit by Lee Harvey Oswald's two daughters against the *National Enquirer* should be transferred from state to federal court, attorneys for the newspaper said.

The petition filed in federal district court here Monday asked that the suit be moved from 86th District Court in Rockwall to federal court because the parties involved in the suit are from different states. The *Enquirer* is a Florida-based publication.

Plaintiffs June Porter and Rachel Porter, both of Rockwall, filed the suit July 2 in connection with a June 22 article in the *Enquirer* that described them as "social outcasts" because of accusations that their father killed President John Kennedy in November 1963.

The young women took the name of their stepfather, Kenneth Porter, when their mother, Marina, remarried. Oswald was arrested shortly after the Kennedy assassination and was shot to death by Jack Ruby during a jail transfer only hours later.

The suit said the story "exposes them (Oswald's daughters) to public hatred and ridicule."

An attorney for the newspaper, Michael Byrd, declined to comment on the petition.

FWST 7-28-82

(KDFW-TV reported the Porters were suing for $4 million, but a recent source says $2 million - the attorney refused comment. The Enquirer's source is Joy Smith, long-time friend of Marguerite. Smith's information must have come from Marguerite, who seldom had contact with the kids and whose story-telling expertise is well-known.)

(Someone should interview this Ruby acquaintance who allegedly destroyed an important tape recording)

Where are they now?

Russ "The Weird Beard" Knight, the king of local rock 'n' roll radio when he worked as a disc jockey for KLIF in the '60s, has returned to the air as morning man for WDJZ in Bridgeport, Conn.

FWST 10-7-82

The preacher and the cop

The information the preacher supplied the lieutenant promised to break open the biggest case in the LAPD's history. But when the lieutenant, now Hermosa's police chief, was asked to testify about the preacher, he developed a severe case of amnesia.

by Kevin Cody

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On June 5, 1968, the day Robert Kennedy was assassinated in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel, Hermosa's recently appointed police chief, Frank J. Beeson, was an LAPD lieutenant in charge of the downtown University police station.

Beeson's involvement in the biggest case in LAPD's history began shortly after the murder when an itinerant preacher, known as "The Walking Bible" because of his claim to have memorized all 31,173 verses, arrived at the University station in an old pick-up towing a loaded horse trailer.

The preacher identified himself to lieutenant Beeson as Oliver Brindley "Jerry" Owen. He said he had some information about Sirhan Sirhan, the lone suspect in Kennedy's assassination.

Owen commenced to tell Beeson and his fellow officers a story so intriguing that, as Owen later testified in court, "they had to fingerprint the truck and had to bring men from the downtown station in, and it was a two-hour wait until they got the recording machine and the secretaries all there. Then I gave them the story and they fingerprinted the truck and thanked me for cooperating with them."

In brief, Owen told Beeson that on the afternoon of June 3, while driving through downtown Los Angeles, he had picked up two young Arab hitchhikers.

One of the hitchhikers jumped out of the truck at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue where a young, blond girl and several other Arab men were waiting for him.

The second hitchhiker convinced Owen to make a brief stop further west on Wilshire, at a rear entrance to the Ambassador Hotel. The Arab said he needed to see a friend in the hotel's pantry.

When the hitchhiker returned to the truck, he and Owen began talking about horses. Owen owned several horses, on which he gave children free rides at shopping centers in exchange for their promises to attend church. He wanted to sell one of the horses. The hitchhiker said he was an exercise boy and an aspiring jockey. He offered Owen $300 for the horse and agreed to meet him that night with the money.

The hitchhiker showed up that night accompanied by the young blonde girl and several other Arabs, but with only $100, which he offered Owen to bind the deal until the following morning.

The following morning the young blonde and several of the Arabs, but not the one who had offered to buy the horse, met Owen at the St. Moritz Hotel, where he had spent the night. They offered Owen another $100 and promised the final $100 payment if, that night, Owen would meet the buyer where he'd previously dropped him, at the rear entrance to the Ambassador Hotel.

The meeting time proved to be shortly before the time Kennedy was shot. But Owen claimed not to have gone to the Ambassador because of a previous commitment to preach that night at the Calvary Baptist Church in Oxnard.

He told lieutenant Beeson he learned of Kennedy's death from the radio the following morning while driving back from Oxnard. About noontime that day he was drinking with friends in the Coliseum Bar and watching the news when he recognized the lone suspect as the young Arab he was to have met at the Ambassador. His drinking pals convinced him to go with his story to the nearby University police station.

The LAPD's Special Unit Senator (SUS), headed by lieutenant Manuel Pena, spent several months investigating Owen's story. It concluded, in a 21-page summary report, that there was no truth to it: Owen was merely a publicity seeker.

Hermosa chief Beeson's involvement in the most important case not only in his own career, but in the LAPD's history, might have ended there were it not for a little-noticed suit Owen filed several years later against television station KCOP.

In July, 1975 Owen sued KCOP for having thrown him off the air after only three weeks of his one-year contract. The "Walking Bible" demanded $1.4 million for breach of contract and defamation of character. The latter charge was based on a statement by KCOP president John Hopkin that Owen "was involved in (Robert F.) Kennedy's death."

Owen was represented by a battery of attorneys from three states and five law firms.

KCOP, when it saw the case was going badly, retained the services of Vincent Bugliosi, the famed prosecutor of the Manson family, arguably the *second* biggest case in LAPD history. To assist Bugliosi, KCOP also enlisted the services of Jonn Christian, a former ABC newsman, living on The Strand in Hermosa. At the time, Christian and former FBI agent Bill Turner were completing a book, soon to be published by Random House, titled *The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy: A Searching Look at the Conspiracy and Cover-up.* The book would present evidence that Kennedy's death was the result of a right wing-CIA sanctioned conspiracy, and that the LAPD investigation was a CIA directed cover-up.

In the aftermath of Sirhan's trial, district attorney Evelle Younger told the press the SUS's 47 investigators interviewed "well in excess of 4,000 possible witnesses and others pretending to have some knowledge of the events," and found there had been no conspiracy. Sirhan acted alone, Younger said.

Bugliosi astounded the plaintiff and his attorneys by informing the court that he planned "an affirmative defense...to prove the truthfulness of that charge" that Owen had been involved in Kennedy's death.

Based on information supplied by Christian, Bugliosi subpoenaed the one witness he believed could not only link Owen to the assassination, but also expose the LAPD's investigation as a cover-up.

Bugliosi's key witness was to be LAPD commander Frank Beeson. But when the two met in the hall outside the courtroom on July 29, 1975. Beeson told Bugliosi he didn't understand why he had been subpoenaed. To the best of his recollection he had never interviewed Owen.

"Okay," Bugliosi told him, "if you don't know anything, I guess I have the wrong guy. But I want you to know I'm going to check this out further because my records show that you took Owen's statement."

When court resumed, Bugliosi told superior court judge Jack A. Crickard, "Your honor, I am looking at a manuscript of a book (*The Assassination of Robert Kennedy*) in which a lieutenant Beeson is mentioned as the first person Jerry Owen gave his story about his Sirhan involvement. I just spoke to a commander Beeson, and he said that he was never involved in this case. He said he worked at the University station on June 5, 1968, when he was a lieutenant, but he never spoke to a Jerry Owen, and was never involved in the RFK investigation."

Bugliosi was about to put another witness on the stand when Beeson entered the courtroom. Owen, on noticing Beeson, made a hurried exit. Rather than defy the subpoena, Beeson had decided to take the stand.

The following exchanges between Beeson and Bugliosi are taken from the court

Hermosa police chief Frank Beeson

reporter's daily transcripts of July 29, 1975.

Bugliosi: Do you recall my speaking to you about ten minutes ago in this courtroom?

Beeson: Yes.

Bugliosi: Do you remember telling me you do *not* (emphasis added) remember?

Beeson: Yes.

Bugliosi: Did you suddenly remember when you walked out of the courtroom?

Beeson: Well, as I was walking out to the street – you related the name Owen –.

Bugliosi: Yes.

Beeson: – to the Kennedy assassination.

Bugliosi: Right.

Beeson: And Owen on the subpoena, that didn't mean anything to me. As I was walking out – and the Kennedy assassination – well, I thought maybe that's the guy with the truck because I remember a pick-up.

Bugliosi quickly closed in on the issue of whether or not the police had found Sirhan's fingerprints in Owen's truck.

He had already produced three other witnesses who had testified that Sirhan and Owen had been seen together numerous times as far back as a year before Kennedy's death.

Bugliosi: I take it your state of mind was that there was a possibility that Sirhan's fingerprints could be found inside the truck. Is that correct?

Beeson: I don't recall in detail how that came about, but I do recall that if his (Owen's) story were true, it would have a significant impact on the Sirhan Sirhan investigation.

Bugliosi: Certainly at that point in the investigation you personally – I guess you can't speak for the LAPD – but you certainly did not rule out a conspiracy at that point? That was the day of the assassination.

Beeson: That is true.

Bugliosi: Did you order your latent fingerprint man to dust the inside of the truck for latent fingerprints?

Beeson: I don't recall.

Bugliosi started to press the police commander to search his memory, but was stopped by Judge Crickard. "He says he doesn't recall...," Crickard admonished Bugliosi. The judge had previously warned Bugliosi in chambers that this trial was not to be used as a vehicle for reopening the Kennedy case.

Bugliosi went after the question from a different angle, but Beeson's memory showed no sign of improvement.

Bugliosi: Do you know of any effort that was made to ascertain whether Sirhan's fingerprints were found inside the truck?

Beeson: Not at this point.

Bugliosi: You can't recall?

Beeson: That is right. I can't recall.

Bugliosi: Between now and tomorrow morning when you are going to try to get this tape-recorded conversation and transcript (of Beeson's assassination day interview with Owen), will you make an effort to find out whether there are any fingerprints – any latent fingerprints were lifted from inside of that truck?

Beeson: Yes.

Next Bugliosi questioned Beeson about the investigation of Owen's story. But again the Hermosa police chief's memory failed him.

Beeson: Whether or not I personally did it, I don't know, but I know that his story was investigated and corroborated – or to verify whether or not it was truthful.

Bugliosi: Was it just your testimony now that to your recollection Owen's story with respect to Sirhan was corroborated?

Beeson: No, it was investigated. That is all.

Bugliosi: Do you know whether or not at least to your satisfaction his story was corroborated?

Beeson: His story was not corroborated. In fact, in my judgment at that time his story was fictitious.

Bugliosi: So your judgment as a lieutenant, a detective for LAPD, is that Mr. Owen had given you a false story?

Beeson: That is true.

Bugliosi: And you reached that conclusion based on your conversation with him and the investigation you had ordered?

Beeson: Yes.

In a span of a minute or two Beeson had claimed both not to remember who directed the investigation of Owen's story, and to have investigated it himself. Moments later he would testify, "There is a possibility (I investigated Owen's story)." His fourth position before leaving the stand that day was, "The investigation was done by someone else."

When Beeson stepped down from the stand, Owen returned to the courtroom, prompting Bugliosi to call the police commander back for one more question.

Bugliosi: Is this the gentleman, if you recall, that you spoke to in June '68 at University station?

Beeson: I don't recall. He looks familiar to me, but I don't know.

Bugliosi knew from Christian's and Turner's book that the *LAPD's* investigation established that Owen had, as he claimed, stayed at the St. Moritz the night before the primary, but had not, on the day of the primary, preached in Oxnard. The police knew Owen's pick-up and horse trailer had been parked outside the Ambassador during Kennedy's victory party. And they knew from questioning Sirhan's family that Sirhan had been scrambling for money to buy a horse in the days before the assassination. When Sirhan was arrested he had four $100 bills in his possession, a fact not reported by the news media until after Owen visited Beeson at the University station.

The LAPD had learned from FBI files that Owen had a criminal record going back to the 1930's, ranging from adultery and child abandonment to arson and insurance fraud.

Owen also had a long association with underworld and right-wing figures. But despite, or perhaps because of his background, when Owen's "The Walking Bible" premiered on KCOP, he was introduced on camera by the then-mayor of Los Angeles,

Sam Yorty. "How do you do, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great privilege to present to you my friend, evangelist Jerry Owen, the 'Walking Bible.' Glad to see you, Jerry," the mayor and sometime conservative presidential candidate said.

One of Owen's character witnesses in the KCOP trial was to have been a woman named Gail Aiken. But while Owen was on the witness stand, Bugliosi asked him, "Do you know Arthur Bremer's sister?" (Bremer shot Alabama Governor Wallace during the 1972 presidential campaign.) Aiken is Bremer's sister. Owen's attorney, who had brought Aiken from Miami to testify, decided not to put her on the stand.

In 1980, Owen's name surfaced in the John Kennedy assassination case when a Warren Commission file on Owen was discovered to be "missing" from the National Archives.

After questioning Beeson, Bugliosi called retired LAPD lieutenant Pena to the stand. But the man who had headed the SUS investigation of Robert Kennedy's death suffered from a memory no better than Beeson's when it came to recalling Owen's story.

Pena's retirement from the LAPD was publicly announced at a going-away party at the Sportman's Lodge the year before Kennedy's assassination. Three-and-a-half months later he was back on the force as supervisor of the bank robbery squad.

In researching their book, Christian and Turner uncovered the following information about Pena's hiatus from the LAPD: "FBI agent Roger LaJeunesse. . . confided that Pena had left the LAPD for a 'special training unit' at a CIA base in Virginia. In fact, said LaJeunesse, Pena's departure in November, 1967 had not been a one-shot deal – the detective had done CIA special assignments for a decade, mostly under (the cover) of AID (the Agency for International Development.)"

The book also revealed, "Among members of the LAPD force and the Mexican-American community, Pena was a living legend – reputedly he had killed 11 suspects 'in the line of duty,' more than any other officer in the history of the department."

Bugliosi immediately sought to get Pena's CIA involvement into the court record.

Bugliosi: You first retired in 1967; isn't that correct?

Pena: I first left in '67, ostensibly a retirement, but I still had overtime on the books, about five months overtime, so it is customary to just run the time out. I was still on the force, but I was officially retired, so to speak.

Bugliosi: But you continued to work for the LAPD?

Pena: No, I went with the U.S. State Department. I went to Washington, D.C.

Bugliosi: Were you trained back there at all?

Pena: I attended the Foreign Service Institute while I was back there.

Bugliosi: Did you ever go on assignment for the State Department?

Pena: Not at this time.

Bugliosi: At a later time?

Pena: In, I believe, 19 – later part of '69 and first part of '70 I took a trip to South America.

Bugliosi momentarily interrupted his effort to determine if Pena was tied to the CIA to pursue the question of whether or not Owen's truck had been fingerprinted.

Pena admitted that dusting for fingerprints would have been "normal, routine. But I can't tell you that it was at this moment without going back through the files."

But Pena was able to remember the conclusion of the LAPD's investigation of Owen's story: "In this particular case we concluded that he did not pick up Sirhan."

For his final question to Pena, Bugliosi returned to the Kennedy investigator's alleged CIA connection.

Bugliosi: Mr. Pena, throughout your law enforcement career have you ever worked directly or indirectly for the CIA?

An irate Judge Crickard interrupted, "That's – you don't have to answer that. That's not relevant to this case. The court discussed that with you in chambers, Mr. Bugliosi, and told you not to inquire into that area."

Bugliosi had subpoenaed the LAPD's file on Owen at the start of the trial, but without success. An LAPD officer, who had testified prior to Beeson and Pena, said, first, that there was no file on Owen, and later that there was a file, but he was unable to locate it. So Bugliosi was disappointed, but not surprised the following morning when commander Beeson returned to court empty-handed. Beeson told the court "that any of the files – or any information contained in those files – divulging of that information would be strongly resisted by the city."

Bugliosi: Did you ascertain yesterday afternoon whether in fact those records exist?

Beeson: I determined there is a file, and there is a file specifically on Mr. Owen.

Bugliosi: And you have been advised by counsel, city attorney's office, which is the counsel for the LAPD, that this file would not be turned over voluntarily in this court?

Beeson: That is true.

Bugliosi pleaded with Judge Crickard to enforce the court's subpoena for the LAPD file on Owen. But Crickard refused, sinking Bugliosi's effort to link Owen to Sirhan and to the Kennedy assassination, and with it, KCOP's defense. Crickard found in favor of Owen, but for unexplained reasons awarded him only $35,000.

Also lost, at least for the time, was the opportunity to determine if the LAPD investigation of Robert Kennedy's murder was a cover-up.

Owen, when contacted last week in Massachusetts and asked about the story he told Beeson, responded, "Listen, I'll tell you what. I can't talk. I'm here at a big Bible school, talking through a switchboard and all. When I get out there (California) the first of next month I can talk to you."

But according to a November 14, 1981 article in the *Los Angeles Times* by Russ Chandler, "Owen sticks by the hitchhiking account and says he talked to Sirhan about buying one of Owen's saddle horses." The article also notes that Owen spent from 1979 to 1981 preaching in Georgia. Bugliosi says he received a call from Owen last year and that Owen claimed to have visited with Billy Carter while in Plains, Georgia.

As for Hermosa police chief Frank Beeson, his memory about the most important case of his career, the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, remains as oddly selective as ever.

The following is an excerpt from an interview *Easy Reader* conducted with Chief Beeson Thursday afternoon:

ER: What did you think of Jerry Owen's story?

Beeson: Okay, which one was Jerry Owen?

ER: The reverend.

Beeson: The what?

ER: The reverend.

Beeson: That's the guy with the horse, right, with the thing on his hood. Yea, he came in and I interviewed him, and later on in a civil action where I don't recall the cast of characters, I think he was suing the city or county of someone, but Bugliosi was one of the cross-examining lawyers and I testified at that hearing ... And it had to do with my connection with Owens, and we, when I say we, I mean the University detectives, conducted an investigation of the feasibility of his story about picking up this alleged hitchhiker on his route to some horse event, and that it allegedly was Sirhan. And based on all the evidence, we determined he was full of shit, and lied.

We brought him back for an interview after the errors in his story were discovered, and I interviewed him again and the task force had tape recordings of the two interviews and they were in great conflict with one another.

ER: Was his truck fingerprinted?

Beeson: I don't recall.

ER: You don't remember whether or not it was fingerprinted?

Beeson: I guess it probably was, if that would have been relevant. I remember it was a green truck and it had a cow or a horse or something on the hood, which was unusual.

ER: If it was fingerprinted, what was the outcome of the fingerprinting?

Beeson: I don't recall whether it was fingerprinted or not. But if it was relevant that is, if it should have been fingerprinted to prove or disprove something, we did it. But if it wasn't relevant, we didn't. And I don't recall. And when I say I don't recall, I just know what I would have done because that's the way I was trained. Tell me, what are we talking about – we're talking about 1968.

ER: Did you know Manual Pena?

Beeson: Yeah.

ER: Was he CIA?

Beeson: No. He wasn't CIA that I was aware of.

ER: He was head of Special Unit Senator, right?

Beeson: I don't know if he retired before or after the assassination, but he's retired.

Chief Beeson was certain of one point: the LAPD will never voluntarily make public its file on Jerry Owen.

When asked why the LAPD refused to produce Owen's file when Bugliosi subpoeaned it, Beeson answered, "You think you can come in and look at our records. We claim privilege. I do that all the time. People come in here and try to get in my records, and I claim privilege, and we take it to the mat. . .

"My records are my records, and I don't want anybody to see them. If you can convince the court you ought to see them, I'll show them to you. But not without a court order. And I'm not trying to be obstinate."

Easy Reader, October 14, 1982

Top newsmen thrown off track in pursuit of conspiracy story

by Kevin Cody

After Robert Kennedy's assassination, the press in Los Angeles swallowed whole the LAPD's finding that Sirhan Sirhan had been a "lone assassin."

Two journalists best equipped to investigate the inconsistencies in the LAPD's findings were *Los Angeles Times* Pulitizer nominee Dave Smith and KNXT's Eyewitness News producer Pete Noyes. Noyes, at the time, was writing a book on John Kennedy's assassination, to be titled *Legacy of Doubt*.

Smith, in a 1978 interview with *Easy Reader*, said he demanded to be taken off the Kennedy assassination story because the *Times* refused to print what he wrote.

"When Baxter Ward began his hearings on the 'two-gun theory' and Bill Farr and I turned in our story, it was cut back so much that we made quite a protest. I told them if I'm to spend my time listening to what people say, which is my job, and you're not going to do me the courtesy of believing what I write and printing it, then this is the end of my dealing with the Kennedy case. And it was," Smith said.

Pete Noyes told fellow newsmen he was convinced Sirhan was part of an Arab conspiracy.

Jon Christian and Bill Turner, authors of *The Assassination of Robert Kennedy: A Searching Look at the Conspiracy and Cover-up*, say they met with Noyes in January, 1969, in the office of Charles O'Brien, then the state's chief deputy attorney general.

Christian and Turner said that Noyes then claimed to possess information from a high-ranking government source linking Sirhan to an Arab conspiracy, but that Noyes refused to divulge the source.

The authors claim that 10 years later, shortly after Random House published their book, they learned why Noyes had placed so much confidence in his source.

"Pete told me John Van de Kamp had been his source," Christian said. Van de Kamp in 1968 was director of the U.S. attorney general's executive office in Washington, D.C. His responsibility was to coordinate activities of the 93 U.S. attorney offices around the country.

"I have no comment," Noyes sharply interjected when this reporter broached the subject on the phone with him in 1979.

"What about Turner? Is he reliable?"

"Turner's a good friend. I talked to him yesterday," Noyes replied.

"Christian and Turner mentioned that the Arab conspiracy link is the same kind of story Van de Kamp gave you a couple of years ago," I said to Noyes.

"I can't remember anything about that. I'm not going to go into it. Christian has tried to set me up wherever he can. And you know, I really have no comment about it. I have no feeling. I have no interest. I don't know anything about it. I don't care, and if I never see Jon Christian again that's fine with me," Noyes said.

The next day I interviewed Van de Kamp by phone on the subject.

"It is my understanding that in 1969 you supplied newsman Pete Noyes with information linking Sirhan to Arab conspirators," I said.

"Absolute nonsense," Van de Kamp responded. "You better check with Pete Noyes on that. I was in Washington and had no connection at all with the Kennedy assassination. I had no reason to talk to Pete Noyes about it," the district attorney said.

When I checked with Noyes again, the newsman said, "I have nothing to say on it, okay? Nothing, nothing to say. You can put that in *Easy Reader* if you want, but I'm not getting involved in the thing. I'm running a news operation here, and I'm very busy. Okay?

After these comments were published in a May, 1979, *Easy Reader* story about Christian's and Turner's book, Noyes called and apologized for having been so abrupt. "I have to protect my sources," he explained.

Van de Kamp's recent, and according to the *Los Angeles Times*, highly emotional effort to prevent Sirhan from being paroled was largely perceived as a political ploy to demonstrate that he is tough on criminals.

But if Van de Kamp, now a candidate for state attorney general, was in fact the government source who sent Noyes on a wild goose chase after an Arab conspiracy, then his desire to see Sirhan kept behind bars may really have been more emotional than political.

FWST 10-5-82

Would-be Ford assassin just sorry that she missed

By JACK SIRICA
Knight-Ridder News Service

PLEASANTON, Calif. — Sara Jane Moore has had seven years in jail to mull over that day when she raised her revolver and fired at President Gerald R. Ford in San Francisco.

And after all that time, after giving up her freedom, her contact with the son she loved, her studies — her only real regret is that she missed.

SARA JANE MOORE

"I was stunned that I missed; I couldn't believe it," Ms. Moore said during an interview at the Federal Correctional Facility here. "Yes, I'm sorry I missed. I don't like to be a failure.

"But as a human being I'm eternally grateful that I didn't kill another human being."

Sara Jane Moore, now 52, has paid dearly for the missed shot she now blames on a faulty gun sight.

She spent five years in a small, maximum-security section of a federal prison in Alderson, W. Va. Only last December, when she was transferred to the comfortable federal prison here, did she join the general prison population.

When she shot at Ford, she believed she would be killed for revealing that she was an FBI informant.

"I was going to go down anyway," she said. "And if I was going to go down, I was going to do it my way. I could not continue to function in this society. If the government was going to kill me, I was going to make some kind of statement.

"I realized I would probably be killed, and I gained a sense of freedom. The fear of arrest stopped. I finally joined those who have only violence as a means of change."

With her graying brown hair gathered in a bun, her round face, her red-plaid flannel shirt, digital watch and flat brown shoes, Moore seems a mixture of an aging demonstrator and a suburban housewife. She has been both.

Moore now lives in a cell in the quiet, "preferred housing" section of the prison. She works in the carpentry shop for 24 cents an hour, and her mail is opened before she receives it.

Although she holds the keys to her small cell, she is locked in her unit with more than 100 other women by 9 p.m. each night. She reads, writes letters, does needlepoint and, according to prison officials, occasionally files grievances over one issue or another.

She has quieted down considerably during her seven years in prison.

In 1979, she and another female inmate escaped from the Alderson prison. Several hours later, after they had walked 25 miles in near-zero temperatures, a police sergeant picked up the pair as they walked near the Greenbrier Hotel, a well-known resort.

When Moore and her companion said they were going to Charlottesville, Va., the officer arrested them. They were walking the wrong way.

Moore later went on a hunger strike and proclaimed in an interview that she was a "political prisoner." Her thyroid failed, and she had a serious bout with the flu.

"Oh, I'm tired," she said. "When I came here, I decided I was going to rest for a year."

She apparently is following her plan. Georgia Jacka, a prison spokeswoman, said Ms. Moore has caused "no new problems" since arriving in Pleasanton on Dec. 18.

Ms. Moore hopes for parole, which technically could come in September 1985. She says she has to "believe I'm going to be free. I'd probably commit suicide tomorrow if I didn't think that."

She said, however, that she expects never to be released.

TWO CORRECTIONS FOR THE LAST ISSUE: first, a typo in the next to last paragraph on page 3 - it should read "those marks may not represent the"; second, #5 on page 5 represents James Altgens and two other people. Neither one affects the analysis in any way.

BRIEFS: With this issue, COVERUPS goes monthly! Your response has been so good that all printing and postage costs are fully covered. If the new subscriber rate continues, COVERUPS will expand to 12 pages, so please spread the word - and thank you....There's still no response from Dr. Barger to the Ramsey Panel report, but the 19th anniversary might be a good time ....the delay may be due to Louis Stokes, who's busy running for re-election; others include HSCA members Fithian, Devine and Fauntroy....the Pennsylvania Senate race looks interesting - critic Cyril Wecht is trying to unseat John Heinz (of ketchup fame); if he wins, his fellow senator will be Arlen Spector (who questioned Jean Hill for the Warren Commission).... locally, former FBI agent Richard Harrison is running for Dallas DA against Henry Wade - Harrison told me he drove another agent with the LHO rifle to the Fort Worth funeral home so the agent could put his prints on it for comparison purposes; Harrison told David Lifton he was drunk when he told me that story - he might have been the first time, but not when I called him back the next day for confirmation....William Wood, later known as Bill Boxley, a former CIA agent and Jim Garrison's chief investigator, died recently ....Part Two of Earl Golz' excellent JFK wrapup for Gallery Magazine is even better than the first.... If your JFK/assassination library has some holes, write to Mike Mach at M & A Book Dealers, 2120 Speight Avenue, Waco, TX 76706 for a free catalog - he's got good prices on a very good selection of books, magazines and tapes....And now for a Charles Spears letter - q....Harold Weisberg has just won another FOIA suit against the FBI - the judge says they must search for the material he demanded and turn it over; congrats to him and attorney Jim Lesar - keep it up....I'm no expert on the MLK case, but from what I've read, no one seems to question Ray's alleged proficiency with a rifle - when did he ever fire a gun....With this issue, most of my backlog from last March has been printed, but there are other subjects of interest: Reagan shooting, intelligence community, Arthur Bremer's diary, reinvestigation of Marilyn Monroe's death, Chappaquidick and numerous, obscure articles on the JFK and RFK killings - let me know what you'd like to see and please add your comments to the articles already printed; I've never read the Penkovsky Papers and vaguely recall a reference to it in a recent JFK book....Coming next issue, for sure, is Jim Marr's excellent article on LHO in San Antonio and how the HSCA bungled a related interview....Waiting for space is info about LHO in Montreal, an examination of the siren sounds on the DPD tape, new photo evidence supporting the acoustics, the Bronson film (!), the book Crime of the Century, the history of the DPD tapes and now evidence LHO did have a Texas driver's license.

COVERUPS! is published monthly with 8 or more pages of useful information for JFK researchers and historians. Subscription price in North America is $1.00 (US) per issue; residents of other countries should write for foreign rates. Back issues are available at your regular subscription price. Your subscription expires with the issue number on your address label. Original manuscripts, articles and newspaper clippings are always appreciated—your contributions are essential for a good newsletter!

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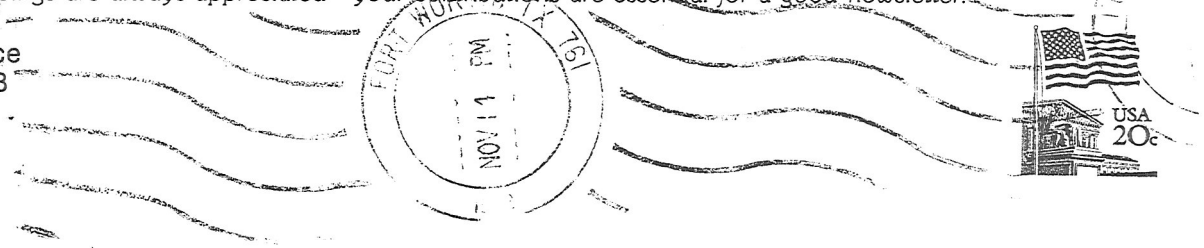

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